



# **STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**



ARNOLD  
SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

**For Meeting Date: March 13, 2008**

### **Agenda Item No. 9: Presentation of Select 2007 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Seven Active Surface Mining Sites for Acceptance Consideration by the State Mining and Geology Board.**

**INTRODUCTION:** The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) serves as the lead agency under SMARA for forty-eight (48) individual mining operations located in two counties (El Dorado County and Yuba County), eleven (11) San Francisco Bay dredging operations, and ten (10) cities that do not have mining ordinances. SMARA inspection reports for four surface mining operations located in El Dorado, two surface mining operations located in the City of Richmond, and one surface mining operation located in the City of Rocklin, are being presented for acceptance consideration.

### **MINE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SMGB'S ACCEPTANCE CONSIDERATION:**

The 2007 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's March 13, 2008 Regular Business Meeting for acceptance consideration by the SMGB are:

- Richmond (Chevron) Quarry (CA ID #91-07-0006), City of Richmond.
- Point Richmond (Canal) Quarry (CA ID #91-07-0007), City of Richmond.
- Weber Creek Quarry (CA ID #91-09-0002), El Dorado County.
- Diamond Quarry (CA ID #91-09-0003), El Dorado County.
- Cool Cave Quarry (CA ID #91-09-0005), El Dorado County.
- Snows Road Quarry (CA ID #91-09-0012), El Dorado County.
- Big Gun Quarry (CA ID #91-31-0013), City of Rocklin.

A summary of violations and corrective measures per surface mining operation inspected is presented below.

**Richmond (Chevron) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0006):** At time of inspection, December 6, 2007, three violations were noted at time of inspection:

- The west-southwest facing quarry cut slope shows evidence of failure and is currently considered to be unstable.



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- Revegetation of the quarry slopes did not meet the criteria set forth in the approved reclamation plan.
- Mining-related activities (slope instability) are beyond the footprint of the approved reclamation plan.

The following corrective measures are noted:

- The west-southwest facing cut slope requires continued monitoring for overall slope stability and mitigation of failures observed at time of inspection. Such work should continue to be performed by a California licensed geotechnical engineer and/or certified engineering geologist.
- The revegetation efforts should continue to be implemented to meet the criteria set forth in the approved reclamation plan.
- The existing approved Reclamation Plan does not reflect current operations (i.e., recycling facility), and requires updating and clarification for completeness. An amended reclamation plan for the site should include scaled maps, sections and other pertinent illustrations, current and future phased areas of operations/reclamation, erosion control measures, grading plan (if required), revegetation plan and complementary performance standards.
- The financial assurance amount should be re-evaluated, and adjusted as appropriate, to reflect mitigation of the unstable west-facing cut-slope, remaining mining-related disturbance, reclamation of the existing recycle material stockpile, potential additional revegetation efforts, monitoring requirements, and current labor, fuel, and equipment rates.

**Point Richmond (Canal) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0007):** No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection, December 6, 2007.

**Weber Creek Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0002):** At time of inspection, January 15, 2008; the following violations were noted:

- Over-excavation of the highwall had occurred in at least two locations.
- Encroachment upon the established property line setback of 30 feet had occurred.
- The main ½-inch minus material stockpile exceeded the maximum height of 50 feet and lacks erosion control measures.
- No re-vegetation test plot program was currently established.



- No topsoil management program was currently established.
- Reclamation of the Greenstone Country Development parcel had not been completed.

The following required corrective measures were noted:

- Implement grade controls for the highwall and revise quarry cut slope configuration in an amended reclamation plan.
- Improve sediment erosion control and winterizing measures for the main ½-inch minus stockpile.
- Continue with soil erosion control efforts throughout the quarry.
- Lower the main ½"-minus stockpile to a height no greater than 50 feet per criteria set forth in the 1997 Reclamation Plan and provide for material erosion preventive measures around the perimeter of this stockpile, or propose alternatives (e.g., construction of an intervening bench and adequate soil erosion and drainage control measures).
- Establish topsoil management program.
- Initiate a revegetation test plot program.
- Reclaim the Greenstone Country Development parcel.

**Diamond Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0003):** No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection, January 15, 2008.

**Cool Cave Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0005):** No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection, December 19, 2007.

**Snows Road Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-19-0012):** No violations were noted at time of inspection, December 18, 2007.

**Big Gun Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-31-0013):** No violations were noted at time of inspection, December 21, 2007; however, a financial assurance instrument is required for the adjusted amount of \$62,203, in addition to costs for profit/overhead, mobilization, and lead agency administrative costs, and current labor, fuel, and equipment rates.

One corrective measure was noted. Quarry slope stabilization and maintenance activities, annual slope inspections, and annual erosion control monitoring, need to be performed in accordance with the approved Interim Management Plan.



**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the seven 2007 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings to each mine operator and their respective SMARA lead agency.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:**

To accept seven 2007 SMARA mine inspection reports:

*Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the SMGB today, I move that the SMGB accept the seven 2007 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings to each mine operator and their respective lead agency. These sites are the Richmond (Chevron) Quarry, Point Richmond (Canal) Quarry, Weber Creek Quarry, Diamond Quarry, Cool Cave Quarry, Snows Road Quarry and the Big Gun Quarry.*

Respectfully submitted:

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Stephen M. Testa  
Executive Officer

